

## In the garden with Shobha Vanchiswar



September 10, 2010

### **Planning and planting for spring now, yes, now!**

For myself, along with my usual lineup of tulips for the perennial beds in front, I will be adding more alliums, camassias and fritillarias in the “meadow.” Inspired by Anna Pavord’s book, “Bulb,” I intend to try out some unusual types and varieties. At this time, I have every intention of sticking to a budget, but if my past records are anything to go by, I will not be very successful. I’m bracing myself.

While you are at it, think December holidays as well. That’s right, I said December. Picture the normal frenzy and stress of gift buying for a long list of people who have pretty much everything. I suggest that you act now and save yourself all the craziness in December. Order bulbs for your friends and family. Let them know that this year they will receive their presents in advance. Depending on how dear they are to you, the gift could include your help with the planting in the fall. So come the holidays, you can sit back with a nice cup of cocoa and watch others rushing about. Nice!

Of course, instead of bulbs, you can also give young trees, shrubs and perennials. They can all be planted in the fall. Next year, when the garden starts to shine, your loved ones will be so appreciative.

It is not a bad idea to let those who give you holiday gifts know that you would be very happy to receive bulbs and other plants. I think this is a good way to get what you really want. Be sure to give them the specifics or else you might end up with plants inappropriate for your location.

So grab the catalogs or go online and start shopping. Remember, with bulbs, more is better. A little bit of forethought now goes a long way.